

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

Applicant(s): **Ralph Stankowski**

Docket No.

MCA 170

Serial No.

09/660,795

Filing Date

09/13/2000

Examiner

Rbert J. Popovics

Group Art Unit

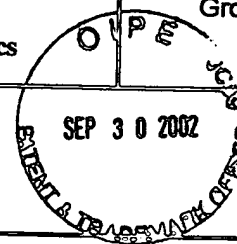
1724

Invention: **PROCESS AND FILTER FOR FILTERING A SLURRY**

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TC 1700



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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10-8-02

APPLICANT: Ralph Stankowski

SERIAL NO.: 09/660,795

FILED: 09/13/2000

EXAMINER: Robert J. Popovics

GROUP ART UNIT: 1724

TITLE: PROCESS AND FILTER FOR FILTERING A SLURRY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE

Responsive to the Office Action of September 11, 2002, please enter the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 over Price. The pending claims require that the cartridge is free of an open void volume which causes separation of particles from a slurry being filtered. Since the inlet to the first filter segment, 20 (Fig. 1) has the same area and configuration of the first-contacted surface of the first filter segment, no air is entrapped between the slurry and the first contacted surface of the first filter segment. This configuration contrasts with the inlets in the filtration cartridge of the cited Price'628 reference. The inlets of Price are smaller than and have a different configuration than the top surface of the filter. When utilizing such a configuration, the particles of a slurry to be filtered would separate from the slurry. If, on the other hand, Price's top surface of the filter were in contact with the outlet of the inlet, no undesirable void volume would be formed. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.